

# OPTICAL FIBER DEPOSITION TUBE FUSED IN DEUTERIUM ATMOSPHERE FOR ATTENUATION IMPROVEMENT

## Abstract of Disclosure

A silica deposition tube is fused in a deuterium ( $D_2$ ) gas atmosphere and optionally baked in a deuterium ( $D_2$ ) gas atmosphere to substantially reduce the hydrogen content in the tube for decreased fiber attenuation. Alternatively, raw silica material is pre-treated in  $D_2$  gas followed by fusing of the raw silica tube in a  $D_2$  gas environment.

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